



Quebec
Waterways

Lock Guide



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Quebec Historic Canals

Lachine Canal Located in the heart of Montreal, the Lachine Canal stretches 14 km from the Old Port to Lake Saint-Louis. With its five locks, it allows boats to bypass the Lachine rapids within a unique, lively urban setting. Opened in 1825, this bicentennial canal welcomes over a million visitors each year. Whether on foot, by bike, or by boat, visitors can explore the history of this cradle of Canada's industrialization.



Navigation information:

VHF 68 / Lock No. 1 (Old-Port)
514-496-1536

VHF 68 / Lock No. 5 (Lachine)
514-595-6594

Technical data:

Draught: 2 m (6 feet, 6 inches)

Overhead clearance:
2.45 m (8 feet)

Smallest lock dimensions:
50.29 x 11 m (165 x 36 feet)

Transit time:
3 to 5 hours

Length of canal:
14 km (7.56 NM)

Schedule:

<https://parks.canada.ca/lachine-hours-guide>



Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Canal At the western tip of Montreal Island, the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Canal connects Lake Saint-Louis to Deux-Montagnes Lake, at the mouth of the Ottawa River. Opened in 1843 for commercial purposes, the canal and its lock are now mainly used for recreational boating. Its boardwalk, restaurants, and waterside terraces make it the busiest lock in Canada.



Navigation information:

VHF 68
514-457-5546

Technical data:

Draught: 2.74 m (9 feet)

Overhead clearance:
between 10.67 m (35 feet)
and 12.80 m (42 feet)

Lock dimensions:
54.86 x 11.89 m (180 x 39 feet)

Transit time:
30 minutes

Schedule:

<https://parks.canada.ca/steannebellevue-hours-guide>



Carillon Canal The Carillon Canal is located on the Ottawa River and provides a bypass around the Long-Sault Rapids. Unique in North America, its impressive lock features a nearly 200-ton guillotine gate and lifts boats 20 metres in a single operation! To watch this remarkable system in action and take in the beautiful view, don't hesitate to climb up and say hello to the lock staff.



Navigation information:

VHF 68
450-537-3534

Technical data:

Draught: 2.74 m (9 feet)

Overhead clearance:
12.8 m (42 feet)

Lock dimensions:
54.86 x 11.89 m (180 x 39 feet)

Transit time:
1 hour

Schedule:

<https://parks.canada.ca/carillon-hours-guide>



Contact us

VHF 68

During your transit, remain tuned to VHF channel 68. This channel, preferred over telephone communication, allows you to reach canal staff during operating hours.

General information:

1-888-773-8888
(Toll free in Canada and the US.)
or 514-283-6054

-  infocanalqc@pc.gc.ca
-  @QCCanals
-  @ParksCanada
-  @parks.canada
-  @parkscanada
-  [parks.canada.ca/
lhn-nhs/canaux-canales](http://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/canaux-canales)

Saint-Ours Canal The Saint-Ours Canal enables boats to bypass the Richelieu River's shallows, making it easier to navigate between the Saint Lawrence River and Lake Champlain. Inaugurated in 1849, the Canal proved invaluable to international trade between Montreal and New York for over a century. The Saint-Ours Canal, rich in history, is a place to observe the Vianney-Legendre fishway, which is a unique structure that helps protect endangered fish species. Darvard Island also offers a wonderful place to stop, stretch your legs, and enjoy a picnic.



Navigation information:

VHF 68
450-755-8140

Technical data:

Draught: 3.66 m (12 feet)
Overhead clearance:
8.84 m (29 feet)
Lock dimensions:
97.54 x 11.89 m (320 x 39 feet)
Transit time:
30 minutes

Schedule:

[https://parks.canada.ca/
stours-hours-guide](https://parks.canada.ca/stours-hours-guide)



Chambly Canal Built to allow boats to bypass rapids and cross the difference in elevation between the Chambly Basin and the Upper Richelieu River, the Chambly Canal stretches nearly 19 kilometers. Its nine locks, including three staircase locks, a unique design in Quebec, are still operated manually. Opened in 1843, the canal long served as an essential artery for transporting wood and goods to the United States. Today, visitors come to cycle along the banks, picnic under the trees, or watch the boats go by.



Navigation information:

VHF 68
Chambly sector: 450-658-4381
Saint-Jean sector: 450-348-3392

Technical data:

Draught: 2 m (6 feet, 6 inches)
Overhead clearance:
8.84 m (29 feet)
Smallest lock dimensions:
33.52 x 6.7 m (110 x 22 feet)
Transit time:
Approximately 4 hours
Length of canal:
19 km (10.29 NM)

Schedule:

[https://parks.canada.ca/
chambly-hours-guide](https://parks.canada.ca/chambly-hours-guide)





Approaching the canal

Reduce your speed until you eliminate your wake.

Keep the canal entrance clear so you don't hinder the passage of boats exiting.

Contact the lock/bridge operators by VHF radio to inform them of your position and your intention to be locked through, find out the wait time, and obtain locking-through instructions.

Moor your vessel at the holding wharf. **The blue line painted on mooring wharves marks the boundary for boats waiting for the next lockage.**

Install your mooring lines and fenders on the wharf side inside the lock. You must have a minimum of two mooring lines of sufficient length and in good condition, one in front and one in back.


If there is no wharf inside the lock (such as in the Chambly Canal), lock operators will inform you of the side on which to moor and will provide you mooring lines.


Ensure that you have at least one person capable of doing the work required for each mooring line.


Turn off your radar.

Entrance to the canal will be refused if your boat is not in good condition or if you are alone aboard the vessel.

Watch the traffic lights (similar to road traffic lights):

 **Green:** you may enter the lock

 **Flashing red:**
lockage preparations underway
– **do not enter the lock**

 **Solid red:** Lock not in operation or locking through in progress – **do not enter the lock**

Follow the lock operators' instructions. Vessels are locked through on a "first come, first served" basis. However, priority may be given to a specific vessel for logistical or safety reasons, in particular to place it alongside another one when there is lots of traffic. Be attentive to the lock operators' instructions.

In a Parks Canada canal, you are under the care of lock operators. Be polite to them. Verbal abuse will not be tolerated.

Into the lock

Once the navigation light is green, enter the lock following the instructions of the lock operators.

Dock your watercraft in the area indicated by the lock operators, either along the wharf or beside another boat.

Immobilize your craft by putting it in reverse.





Switch off the engine only after the craft is securely moored.

It is the responsibility of pleasure craft operators to ensure that their vessels are properly docked and moored. Staff may provide assistance when you arrive, if they are available.

At the **Saint-Ours, Lachine, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue** and **Carillon** canals, ensure that your craft is securely tied to the wharf. Tie up the back first by taking up all the slack, then tie up the front.

At the **Chambly** canal, do not attach mooring lines to your cleats. Loop the line around the cleat, making sure to lighten or loosen it during the lockage process.

Once your craft is well-moored, follow these instructions:

-  Turn off the engine. Don't restart the engine during lockage.
-  Ensure there are no open flames on board.
-  No smoking or vaping is allowed.
-  Ensure the bilge blower is working.

During the lockage, each mooring line must be tended by a crew member.

At the **Chambly** Canal, use a boat hook to distance your craft from the lock wall. Do not use your feet or your hands.

To simplify the work of lock operators, and out of respect for other boaters, please lower the volume on your music or other sounds during the lockage.

Be ready to pay or show your locking permit to the lock operator.

When you navigate through the **Chambly** or **Lachine** canals, always report your arrival at locks and bridges. Inform staff of your navigation plans. If you decide to make a stop or change course, inform the lock/bridge operators so they can adjust their operations.

Exiting the lock

Wait until the lock gates are fully open and lock staff give you the signal to start the engine and unhook your moorings.

Exit the lock slowly, according to the lock operators' instructions. If boats are side by side in the lock, they must exit width-wise, one line at the time, from the wall to the wharf.

Respect the 10 km/h (6 mph, 5.5 NM) speed limit and watch your wake until reaching the lateral buoys at the canal channel exit.

For more info and to watch our video:

<https://parks.canada.ca/lockthrough-guide>







Piloting a motor craft while under the influence of alcohol is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.



Historic Canals Regulations

It is the responsibility of pleasure boat operators to be informed of and familiar with the regulations in effect in historic canals. Certain activities are prohibited in a canal. Users must demonstrate judgment and civic mindedness on Parks Canada sites at all times.

The following list of regulations is not exhaustive.

It is forbidden to:

- cause excessive noise in a historic canal between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. (section 7 (c));
- fish within 10 m of a lock or approach wharf, or from a bridge over a navigation channel (section 7 (e));
- dive, jump, scuba-dive or swim in a navigation channel or within 40 m of a lock gate or a dam (section 10 (b));
- water-ski or engage in any activity that involves being towed behind a vessel in a navigation channel (section 10 (a));
- moor at an approach wharf during operating hours if you do not intend to lock through (section 40.2);
- camp on historic canal lands (section 18).

The maximum mooring period is 48 hours.
You must wait 24 hours before mooring at the same lock again.
Please note that this regulation is subject to change.

Speed limits

The maximum speed limit is 10 km/h (6 mph, 5.5 NMPH) at all time. You must slow down when you reach the red and green buoys at the canal's entrance; you can speed up after you pass the same-coloured buoys at the canal's exit.

You are responsible for your wake and any damage it may cause.

To read the Historic Canals Regulations:

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-220/FullText.html>



Les canaux historiques de Parcs Canada Parks Canada Historic Canals



**Distances par voie d'eau (approximatives)
Nautical distances (approximate)**

Montréal	Sorel	38 NM	70 km
Sorel	Chambly	38 NM	70 km
Chambly	Lac Champlain Lake	30 NM	55 km
Chambly	New York	281 NM	520 km
Montréal	Québec	135 NM	250 km
Montréal	Ottawa	97 NM	180 km
Montréal	Kingston	148 NM	275 km
Montréal	Toronto	270 NM	500 km
Chambly	Saint-Ours	27 NM	50 km
Saint-Ours	Lachine	49 NM	90 km
Lachine	Sainte-Anne- de-Bellevue	11 NM	20 km
Sainte-Anne- de-Bellevue	Carillon	24 NM	45 km
Carillon	Canal Rideau	54 NM	100 km



Légende / Legend

- Voies navigables de Parcs Canada
Parks Canada Waterways
- Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent
St-Lawrence Seaway
- New York State Canals Systems

Pour consulter les cartes,
schémas de navigation
et itinéraires

<https://parcs.canada.ca/guide-canaux-cartes>



To see maps,
nautical charts
and itineraries

<https://parks.canada.ca/canals-map-guide>

